

§ 256.0

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Subpart G—Private Relief Bills

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AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 1304, 3728; 41 U.S.C. 612; 5 U.S.C. 2301 note.

SOURCE: 71 FR 60849, Oct. 17, 2006, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Information

§ 256.0 What does this part cover?

This part applies to payments made by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) pursuant to the Judgment Fund statute, 31 U.S.C. 1304.

§ 256.1 What is Treasury's role in paying awards and settlements from the Judgment Fund?

(a) The Judgment Fund is a permanent, indefinite appropriation which is available to pay many judicially and administratively ordered monetary awards against the United States. In addition, amounts owed under compromise agreements negotiated by the U.S. Department of Justice in settlement of claims arising under actual or imminent litigation are normally paid from the Judgment Fund, if a judgment on the merits would be payable from the Judgment Fund. Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS) certifies payments from the Judgment Fund when the following four tests have been met:

- (1) Awards or settlements are final;
- (2) Awards or settlements are monetary;
- (3) One of the authorities specified in 31 U.S.C. 1304(a)(3) provides for payment of the award or settlement; and
- (4) Payment may not legally be made from any other source of funds.

(b) Additionally, FMS requires that requests for payment identify the statute that forms the basis of the underlying claim. The award or settlement must comply with the statutory and regulatory requirements that authorize

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the award or settlement. For example, interest is payable on Judgment Fund awards only if there is an express statutory provision, contractual agreement or constitutional waiver of sovereign immunity authorizing the assessment of interest against the United States. Also, a tort under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) is payable from the Judgment Fund only when the award amount exceeds \$2,500 (for administrative awards) and is in compliance with the regulatory requirements at 28 CFR part 14.

§ 256.2 Where can I find more information about, and forms for, Judgment Fund payments?

Detailed information related to Judgment Fund payments, including copies of all forms, can be found in the Treasury Financial Manual (TFM), Volume I, Part 6, Chapter 3100. The TFM is available on the Judgment Fund Web site at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/judgefund>. Contact information for the Judgment Fund Branch is also available on the Web site.

Subpart B—Requesting Payments

§ 256.10 Who may request payment from the Judgment Fund?

(a) *Court judgments and settlements of litigation.* The Department of Justice must normally submit the request for payment from the Judgment Fund. Agencies that have independent litigating authority may submit a request for payment themselves if the Department of Justice is not responsible for the case.

(b) *Administrative awards.* The program agency that is authorized to approve the award must submit the request for payment.

§ 256.11 How do agencies request payments?

Agencies must submit requests for payments from the Judgment Fund on FMS's Judgment Fund payment request forms or by using other approved methods as provided for on the Judgment Fund Web site at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/judgefund>. FMS provides forms and detailed information about Judgment Fund payments in the TFM, Volume I, Part 6, Chapter 3100.